

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 EB-11 COM-08 INT-08

SCEM-02 TRSE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9972

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0524

FOR STATE/USIA

E. O. 11652: DECLASS 12/31/79

TAGS: ENRG, US, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN REACTION PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE

REF: USIA 7460; 6944

1. THERE HAS BEEN ALMOST NO MENTION OF PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE IN LARG MEDIA AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ALMOST NO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REACTION. LARG TV AND RADIO MENTIONED SPEECH EVENING OF APRIL 19, NOTING ONLY THAT U. S. SUFFERING FROM ENERGY CRISIS, AND THAT PRESIDENT HAD ASKED AMERICANS TO CONSERVE ENERGY.

2. PRESS NOTICE CONFINED TO THIRD PAGE, TWO- COLUMN, TWO- INCH ITEM IN AL- USBU' AL THAQAFI (A WEEKLY NORMALLY DEVOTED TO CULTURAL AND POLITICAN ITEMS) AND TO INSIDE PAGE OF DAILY FAJR AL- JADID. BOTH ARTICLES APPEARED APRIL 20, AND WERE IDENTICAL. HEADLINES STATE QUOTE NIXON APPEALS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE TO ECONOMIZE WITH REGARD TO THEIR CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM. END QUOTE. TEXT OF ARTICLES (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. AMERICAN PRESIDENT NIXON MEDE URGENT APPEAL TO AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR DECREASING
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USE OF ENERGY. IN A MESSAGE TO CONGRESS,
PRESIDENT NIXON SAID INDUSTRY MUST DV W UP PLANS FOR
PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD USE ELECTRICITY IN A MORE EFFICHGENT
WAY. THIS STEP ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT NIXON ALSO AIMS
AT IMPORTATION OF MORE FOREIGN PETROLEUM, IMPROVING
LOCAL PRODUCTION, AND IN THE LONG RUN AT LESSENING
RELIANCE ON FOREIGN PETROLEUM. END QUOTE.

3. ECON OFFICER DELIVERED TEXT OF MESSAGE TO UNDER-
SECRETARY OF PETROLEUM MUNTASSIR APRIL 23. MUNTASSIR HAD
NOT YET SEEN TEXT AND HAD HEARD ONLY THAT PRESIDENT' S
SPEECH STRESSED DOMESTIC CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND
APPROVED NEW SYSTEM OF FOREIGN IMPORTS. HE PROMISED TO
REVIEW SPEECH AND HAVE COMMENTS WITHIN THE WEEK. HE
CONFIRMED THAT LARG PRESS HAD VIRTUALLY IGNORED SPEECH
BUT NOTED THAT NO LIBYAN JOURNALIST CAPABLE OF SUPPLYING
COMMENTARY ON THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT. IMPLICATION IS THAT
CONTROLLED PRESS HERE UNDER ORDERS TO REFRAIN FROM
COMMENT, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT.
JOSIF

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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